



News Release

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
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STATE EXTENDS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON TWIN FALLS GEOTHERMAL MORATORIUM

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State water managers have added an extra week to the formal public comment period on a request to extend for five more years a moratorium on the use of low temperature geothermal ground water in the Twin Falls area, the Idaho Department of Water Resources announced today.

The public now will have until Monday, July 22 to file written comments with IDWR.

IDWR Water Management Division administrator Norm Young added the extra week at the request of water users and other interested parties involved in the process.

“I want to make sure that all citizens and organizations have an adequate opportunity to make their feelings known in the case,” Young said.

The geothermal moratorium covers an area of about 140 square miles around Twin Falls south of the Snake River.

The College of Southern Idaho petitioned IDWR to extend the moratorium for another five years to protect the aquifer and to allow additional technical data to be collected. A five-year geothermal moratorium was originally put in place 15 years ago after IDWR scientists determined the geothermal ground water system was experiencing a significant decline in artesian pressure. The moratorium has been extended twice since then and is due to expire next Wednesday (July 24).

Written comments now must be received by IDWR by 5:00 p.m. July 22 via:

- **Mail** – 1301 N. Orchard Street, Boise, ID 83706;
- **Fax** – (208) 327-7866; or
- **Email** – IDWRInfo@idwr.state.id.us